

EU financing for private sector in the Western Balkans

Accelerating Green Agenda Western Balkans

Webinar | 09.12.2025

Quelle: Umweltbundesamt, M. Deweis

Introduction to the webinar and EU4Green

Nina Meyer

Environment Agency Austria

HOUSEKEEPING

- ✓ Your microphones and cameras are **switched off** for the whole webinar.
- ✓ Feel free to **ask questions** using the **chat-box tool**. We have reserved time for answering the questions asked.
- ✓ If the session ends unexpectedly try to reconnect using **the same link**.
- ✓ The presentation will be available for **download at the EU4Green website**.
- ✓ The **webinar will be recorded** and the link shared at the EU4Green website.
- ✓ The **copyrights** of this webinar belong to the Environment Agency Austria.

AGENDA

14:00-14:25

Introduction to EU4Green and the webinar

Nina Meyer and Sabine Fritz, Environment Agency Austria

- Short introduction to EU4Green & the webinar
- Introduction to EU financing available for WB6: EU funding programmes and WBIF
- *Interactive Q&A (moderated by EU4Green)*

14:25-15:00

WBIF private sector financing programmes in the Western Balkans

Anja Nagel, DG ENEST/WBIF, EC

- Q&A (moderated by EU4Green)

15:00-15:25

Financing opportunities and case studies by the WBIF partners – IFIs

Tolga Nazmi Tuncer and Florentin Gusmini, EIB

- EIB Innovation and Green Transformation Facility
- *Q&A (moderated by EU4Green)*

15:25-15:30

Closing remarks

Sabine Fritz, Environment Agency Austria

- Key points, sources, useful links

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Gain Insight:

Raise awareness on WBIF activities and financing programs available for financing environmental projects in the Western Balkans.



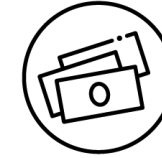
Gain Insights:

from international finance institutions on how some projects are financed in the region.



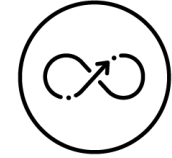
Engage:

Participate in interactive formats and Q&A sessions with experts.



Enable:

From the private sector perspective, prepare for attracting financing for environmental projects.



Inform:

Get an overview of sources for more information on financing of environmental projects.

EU4GREEN PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

- **EU4Green Objective:**
Support the Western Balkans in the implementation of the Green Agenda, thus achieving their commitment to transforming their economies on a more sustainable path and reaching climate neutrality by 2050
- **Economies:**
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
 - **Duration:**
2022-2025
 - **EU Funding:**
EUR 10 million
 - **Austrian contribution:**
EUR 1 million
 - **Implementation:**
Environment Agency Austria
 - **Website:**
[Homepage - EU4Green](#)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and it is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo* declaration of independence.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

Austria's most important environmental expert organisation and one of Europe's leading environmental consultants, standing for a transformation of the economy and society to ensure sustainable living.

- ✓ 40 years of experience
- ✓ More than 600 experts, more diversity
- ✓ More than 55 scientific disciplines
- ✓ More than 20 languages
- ✓ More than 85 million turnover
- ✓ More than 60 countries in our focus

Source: [About us \(umweltbundesamt.at\)](https://www.umweltbundesamt.at)

We are facing major challenges. The Environment Agency Austria provides orientation and shows which paths lead to a future worth living, also for future generations.



Verena Ehold, Managing Director

As an expert organisation, we are working hard for a sustainable and socially responsible transformation of our society. Dialogue with politics, business and civil society is very important to us.



Hildegard Aichberger, Managing Director

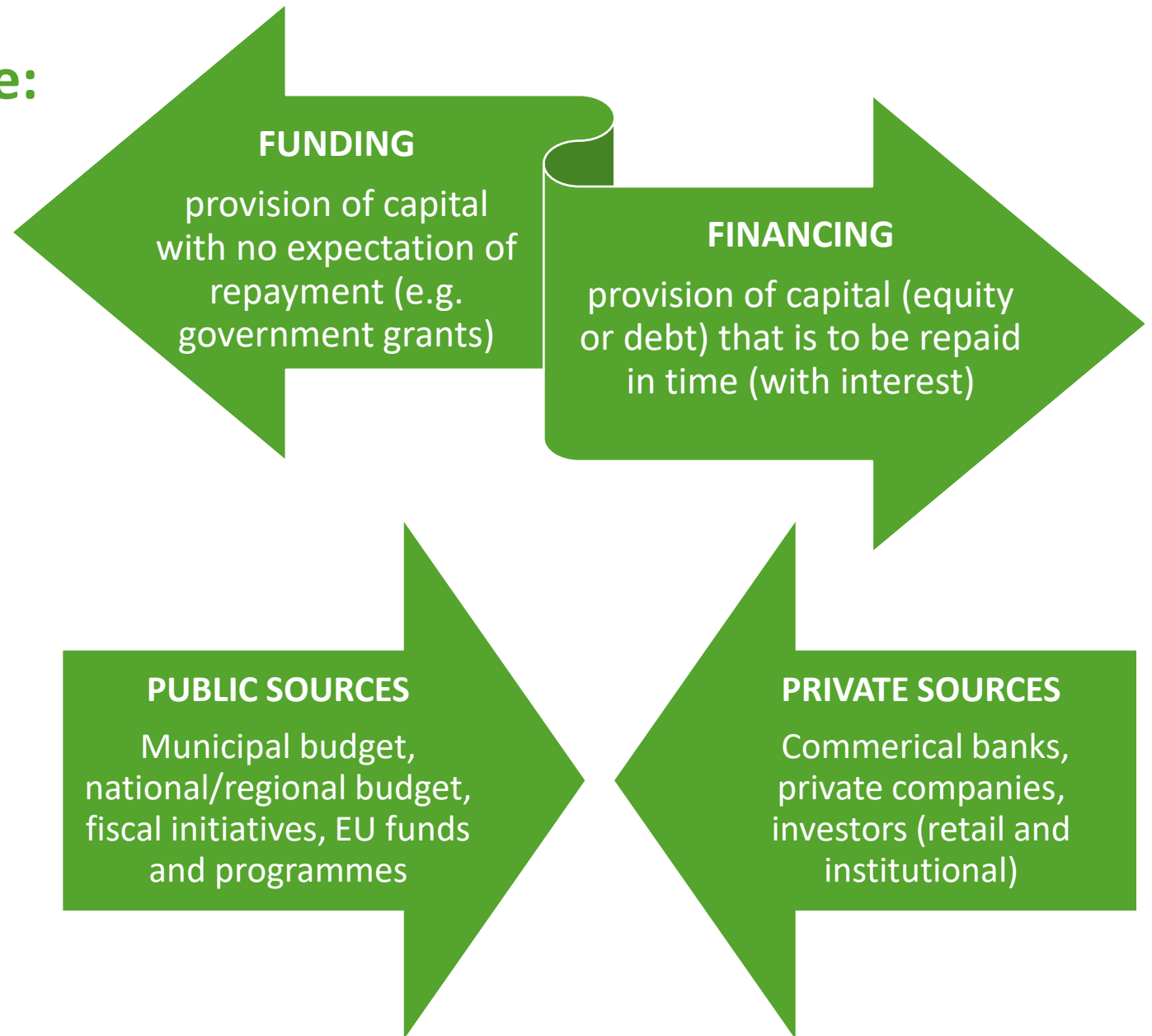
EU financing for the Western Balkans

Sabine Fritz
Environment Agency Austria

Common language for finance:



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Source: The European Investment Bank Advisory Hub & AMAT. (2018). *Financing Air Quality Plans*. https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/190325_financing_air_quality_plans.pdf

Blended Finance: Combining commercial finance with grant funds



© denisismagilov - Fotolia.com

Approach	Description	Application
Grants	Private capital (equity and debt), with grant funds from the government, multilateral development banks (MDBs), UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors to lower cost and bring a project to bankability, including support through technical assistance during the project preparation stage	For non-creditworthy projects or borrowers, and/or support in the early (e.g. preparation) stages of a project
Concessional funds	Private capital (equity and debt) with concessional funds on below-market terms from MDBs, development finance institutions, and policy banks to lower the overall cost of capital and strengthen a project's commercial viability.	For non-creditworthy projects or borrowers
Guarantees	Guarantees to cover equity and debt against political risks, including a government's failure to meet specific obligations to the project under government guarantee. These provide credit enhancement, bring down borrowing costs, and facilitate private investment for environmental projects.	For developing countries, including high-risk countries and projects; for non-/low-creditworthy borrowers
Insurance	A practice by which an entity provides a guarantee of compensation (demand guarantee or corporate guarantee) in case of an adverse event. Depending on the circumstances, political risk and /or credit / commercial risk insurance may be appropriate.	For projects facing high political and credit/commercial risks
Other forms of support	Support from the government through subsidies by temporary tax exemption or relief; subsidies provided conditional on the service delivery and quality; upfront project capital input; and public funds used to hedge currency and /or interest rate risks.	For non-/low-creditworthy projects or borrowers; low tariffs; upfront capital required; and where private financing is in hard currency and /or on floating interest rate terms.

Source: Based on World Bank Group. (2023). *Publication: Scaling Up Finance for Water: A WBG Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action.*
[Open Knowledge Repository \(worldbank.org\)](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/)

EU support with Green Agenda in the Western Balkans

European Commission (EC)



Objective:

- ✓ Prepare the WB6 for **full membership upon accession**, ensuring a closer integration with the EU, accelerating integration and 'phasing-in' as part of the accession process



Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF)



Twofold objective:

- ✓ To address the extensive **infrastructure investment** needs
- ✓ To support the **EU accession** process

European Commission and EU Member States



Partner Financial Organisations



Bilateral Donors



Observers



Source: [Western Balkans Investment Framework](https://wbif.eu/storage/app/media/Library/11.Funding/Annex%20WBIF%20Strategic%20Orientation.pdf); WBIF (2022). *Western Balkans Investment Framework Strategic Orientations – 2021-2027* <https://wbif.eu/storage/app/media/Library/11.Funding/Annex%20WBIF%20Strategic%20Orientation.pdf>

Horizon Europe

Program/ Framework (link)	Funding Instrument	Types of projects (selection)	Beneficiaries
Horizon Europe	Mostly grants complemented with dedicated financial instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pillar III (innovative Europe) supports all stages of innovation, from research and development on the scientific underpinnings of breakthrough technologies, to the validation and demonstration of breakthrough technologies and innovations to meet real-world needs, to the development and scaling up of start-ups and SMEs. 	Businesses , public authorities, NGOs , research institutions

Options for technical assistance: [Apply for funding](#)

Further resources: [Work programmes](#)

Source: [Find your EU funding programme for the environment - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)
Program website

LIFE

Program/ Framework (link)	Funding Instrument	Types of projects (selection)	Beneficiaries
Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE)	85% grants, which can co-finance up to 95 % of project costs. Other forms of funding include procurement contracts, prizes and TA for investment operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy and waste, air quality and pollution prevention and control, nature and biodiversity protection, conservation and restoration, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation, clean energy and environmental and climate governance, energy efficiency. 	Public and private legal entities

Source: [Find your EU funding programme for the environment - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

[LIFE - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[LIFE - Support for applicants - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)

How to approach EU funding programmes financing?

Funding opportunities

Find funding

[EU funding programmes](#)

Find calls for funding - by topic

Funding by management mode

Financial instruments: equity, guarantees, and loans

Prizes

Seal of Excellence

A list of the funding programmes implemented through the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, divided by heading and cluster

Structured information about calls for proposal (e.g. grants) covering major EU topics and areas of action. For some topics, you may find both calls for proposal and calls for tender launched via different EU funding programmes.

How to apply

Before you apply: [EU funding for beginners](#)

Eligibility: [who can get funding?](#)

The application process

Award procedure and contract signature

Managing your project

What to expect once you are awarded a contract: reporting, deliverables, audits and communication.

All programmes funded by the EU budget fall under one of the three types of implementation modes: direct management (HORIZON, LIFE); shared management (for MSs); indirect management (via IFIs)

EU funding is available through a range of financial instruments implemented in partnership with public and private institutions: equity & debt, loan guarantee & venture capital, capacity building and risk sharing facilities

EU funding granted as a prize as a result of a contest

EC quality label for proposals that could not receive funding

Source: [Funding, Tenders - European Commission](#)

New EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2028 – 2034: key features

- **More flexibility** across the budget, so Europe has the **capacity to act – and react – fast** when circumstances change unexpectedly or when new policy priorities need to be addressed;
- A budget tailored to local needs, with **National and Regional Partnership Plans** for investments and reforms, for **targeted impact where it matters most** and ensuring a faster and more flexible support for more economic, social and territorial cohesion across our Union;
- **Simpler, more streamlined and harmonised** EU financial programmes, so that citizens and companies can easily **find and access funding** opportunities;
- A powerful **competitiveness boost**, for Europe to secure supply chains, scale-up innovation and lead the global race for clean and smart technology;
- A **balanced package of new own resources** that ensures adequate revenues for our priorities while minimising pressure on national public finances.
- On 3 September 2025, the Commission adopted a **second package of sectoral proposals**, completing the framework for the next long-term EU budget for 2028-2034.

Source: [EU budget 2028-2034](#)

Interactive Q&A

You have questions? Please pose them in the chat!



To participate, go to <https://my.beekast.com>
and enter session code: **647854**



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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AUSTRIA

WBIF private sector financing programmes in the Western Balkans

Anja Nagel
WBIF/DG ENEST. European Commission



EU Financing for the Green Transition of the Private Sector in the Western Balkans

EU4Green Webinar

9 December 2025 – Anja Nagel, DG ENEST

The Private Sector and the Green Transition

1. “Green” practices to protect climate/environment and health
 - Overarching objectives of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the EU Green Deal
2. Driver of the green transition through innovation
 - Business opportunities
3. The private sector as a partner
 - Investments/financial resources & know-how, e.g. for technologies and management
4. Green transition of the private sector is part of the accession process
 - E.g. reporting obligations for banks & companies, respect of norms and standards
5. Dialogue with and support to private sector companies important
 - **Zooming in on DG ENEST’s private sector engagement**



Private sector engagement

- **Investment conferences & business fora**
 - Open4Business, 9 April 2025, Belgrade
 - EU-WB6 Investment Forum, 13-14 October 2025, Tirana
 - EU-Montenegro Investment Conference, 14-15 October 2025, Luštica
- **Calls for Expression of Interest**
 - Western Balkans => April/May 2025; 440 applications received from EU/EEA/WB companies, many with a link to the green transition
 - Evaluation about to be finalised

Support tools:

Financial

- Blended finance
- Guarantee mechanisms

Technical

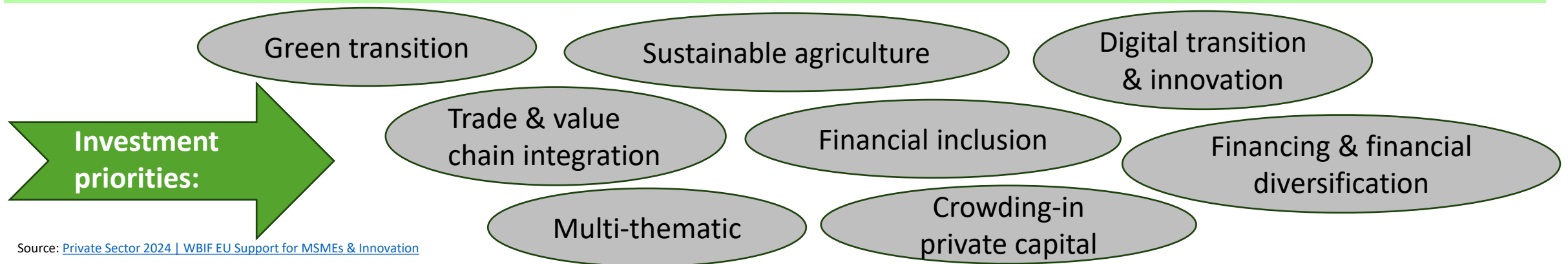
- Technical assistance
- Dedicated facilities (studies, analyses)

Regulatory

- Policy guidance and steering
- Assistance for implementing reforms

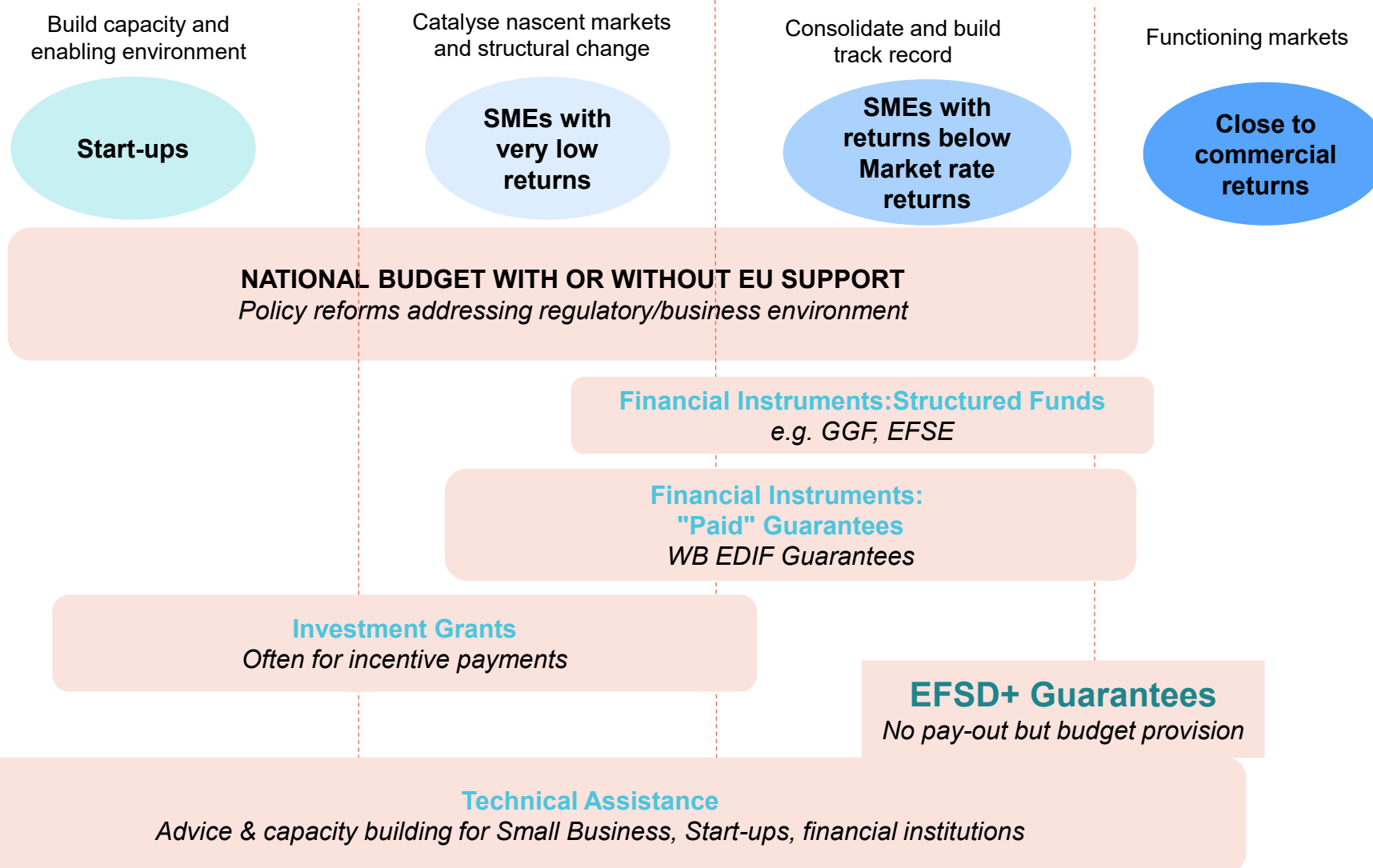


WBIF support for Private Sector in the Western Balkans



Source: [Private Sector 2024 | WBIF EU Support for MSMEs & Innovation](#)

Private sector support – various instruments



Western Balkan Investment Framework - 16 Years of Partnership (2009-2025)

European Commission and EU Member States



Partner Financial Organisations



Bilateral Donors: 12 EU Member States and Norway



Observers



WBIF Private Sector Blending Operations ³	Key results
<p>€628.1 m</p> <p>EU funds for MSMEs in the Western Balkans</p>	<p>1,202,477</p> <p>jobs supported and/or sustained</p>
<p>€7.3 bn</p> <p>total estimated investment</p>	<p>1,741,541 MWh p.a.</p> <p>energy savings</p>
<p>396,398</p> <p>MSMEs supported</p>	<p>638,063 t/p.a.</p> <p>CO2 emissions reduced</p>

Beneficiaries :



WBIF private sector support & green transition

Regional programmes that aim to support the green transition of private companies - examples

Program	Description
Innovation and Green Transformation Facility with EIB	Support to SMEs & mid-caps. TA plus cash-back incentive payments (& EIB loans)
SME Go Green with EBRD	SME support via TA and loans combined with incentive grants (& EBRD loans).
Green for Growth fund with KfW/Finance in Motion	WBIF equity stake in fund providing notably debt financing (via financial intermediaries or directly) to MSMEs and households.
Green Finance for Inclusion with CDP	MSME support via TA and grants to make loans more concessional



WBIF private sector support – further information

=> important to approach local (commercial) banks to explore opportunities further

Useful:

- WBIF website www.wbif.eu.
 - Private sector part [Private Sector 2024 | WBIF EU Support for MSMEs & Innovation](#) presents information on programs & partner banks in all 6 Western Balkan beneficiaries. And it includes a brochure with all ongoing private sector support programs under WBIF.
 - The public sector part includes information on public sector infrastructure – which also makes a crucial contribution to the region’s green transition (renewable energy resources, sustainable infrastructure etc).
 - In total, EUR 2,1 billion of EU support under WBIF have been earmarked to support the GAWB in the period 21-25!





Thank you for your interest!

Contact:
anja.nagel@ec.europa.eu

Interactive Q&A

You have questions? Please pose them in the chat!

Financing opportunities by the WBIF partners – EIB

Tolga Nazmi Tuncer, Florentin Gusmini
European Investment Bank



EIB Global's financial and advisory offer to support green transition in the Western Balkans

EIB Global in the Western Balkans

Accelerating the development of the enlargement countries in line with the EU accession process, the Green and Digital Agenda, **the Economic and Investment Plan and the Growth Plan**

Strong cooperation under Team Europe with the public authorities, banking sector & International Financial Institutions

LUXEMBOURG

EIB headquarters with team for the Western Balkans

BELGRADE

EIB Regional Representation for the Western Balkans

SARAJEVO

EIB Representation for BiH

TIRANA

EIB Representation for Albania

SKOPJE

EIB Representation for North Macedonia

New blending and technical assistance opportunities- available under EFSD+

Supporting **sustainable infrastructure, the green and digital transition, inclusive SMEs growth and job creation, innovation and climate action**

Strong partnership with local banks to support private sector development

Since 2012, over 40% of EIB Global financing in the Western Balkans has been dedicated to private sector support through local financial institutions



As part of Team Europe, EIB Global partnered with local banks to provide support to SMEs and Mid-Caps under the EUR 400m financial package for Covid-19 recovery

Partnership with local banks is instrumental for EIB Global to support firms in the region, through:

- Channelling of funds to firms **more efficiently and affordably**
- Lowering **entry barriers** to markets and resources
- **Enhancing productivity**
- **Fostering economic inclusion**

EIB Global assists banks in increasing sustainable SMEs and MidCaps lending

- Local banks can increase their **SME lending capacities, products and risk taking appetite**
- Local banks may benefit from **EIB Global's technical assistance offering, longer tenors and competitive rates**

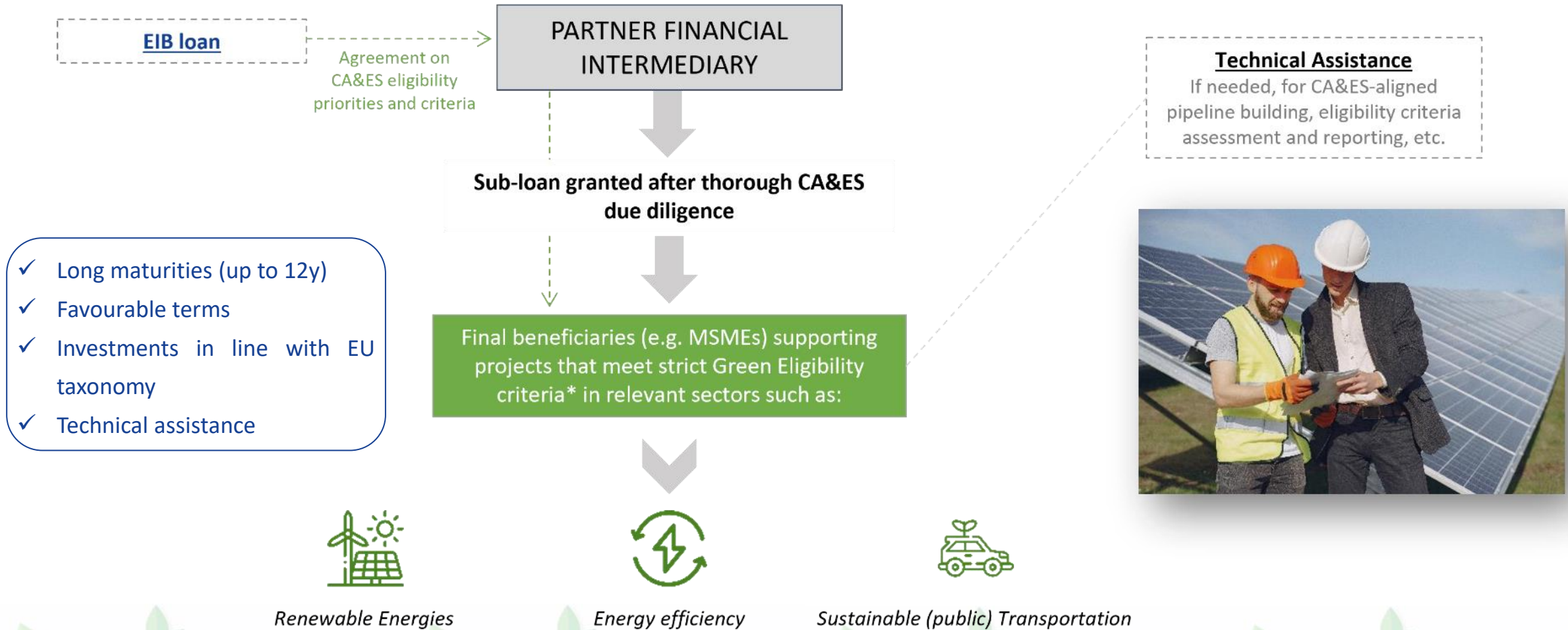


Financial Instruments to support banks' green lending

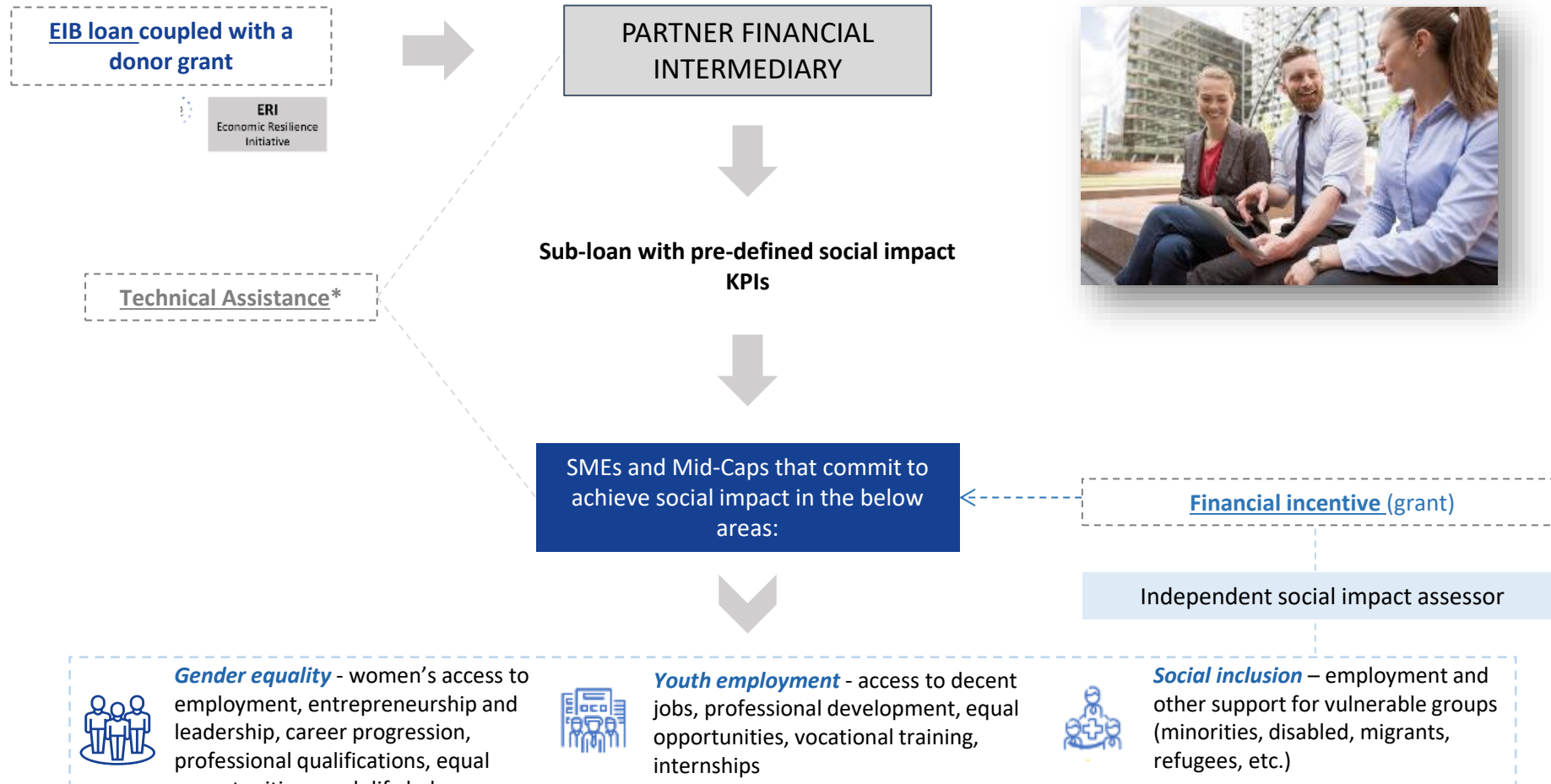


Lending: channelling funds to green projects

Loan for MSMEs with a Green component



Loans for SMEs– Impact Finance



Gender equality - women's access to employment, entrepreneurship and leadership, career progression, professional qualifications, equal opportunities, etc.



Youth employment - access to decent jobs, professional development, equal opportunities, vocational training, internships

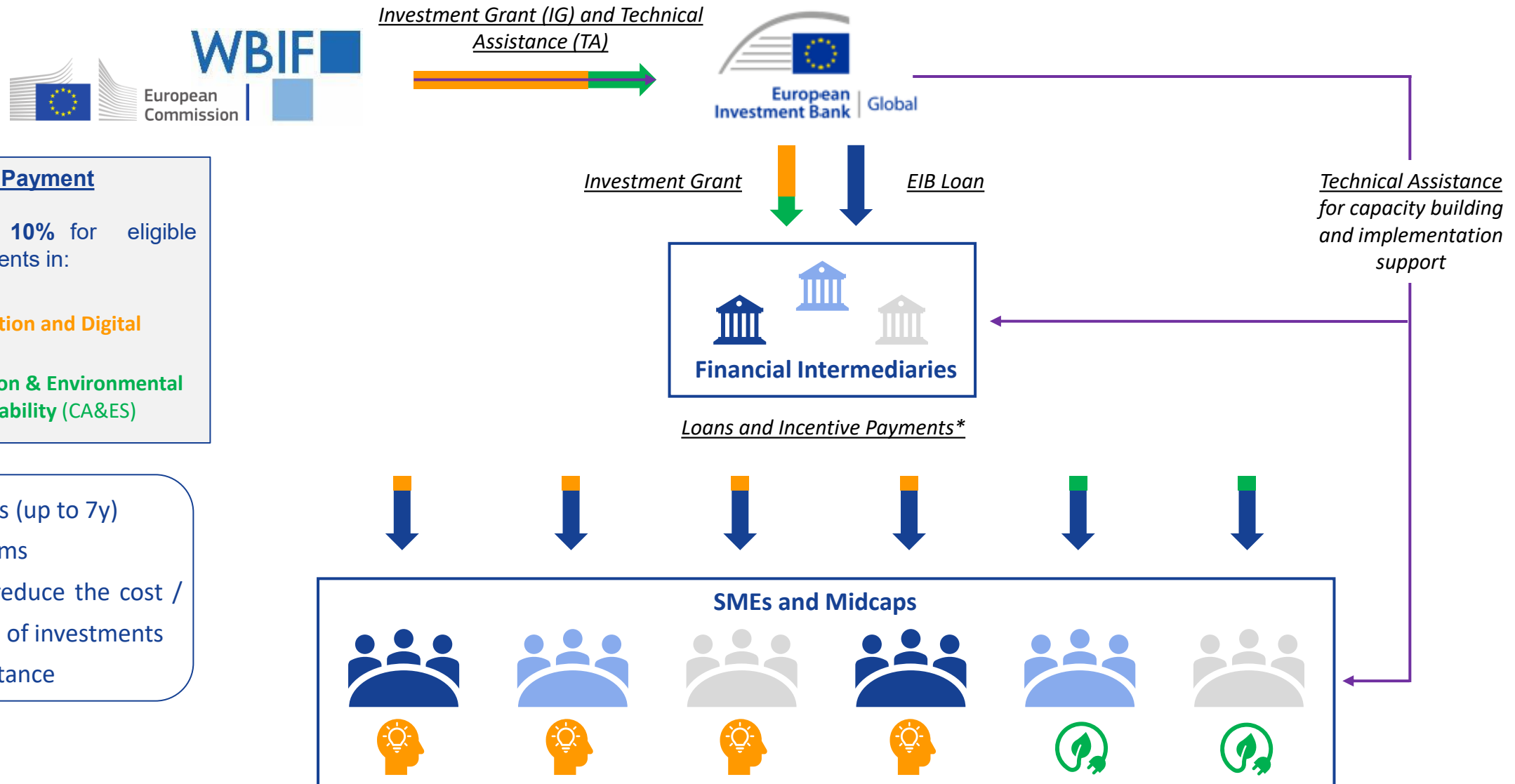


Social inclusion – employment and other support for vulnerable groups (minorities, disabled, migrants, refugees, etc.)



Lending: incentivizing investments in underserved sectors

Innovation and Green Transformation Facility (IGTF)



***Incentive Payment**

Cashback of up to **10%** for eligible SME/Midcap investments in:

- Innovation and Digital**
- Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability (CA&ES)**

- ✓ Long maturities (up to 7y)
- ✓ Favourable terms
- ✓ Incentives to reduce the cost / perceived risks of investments
- ✓ Technical assistance

Green eligibilities under the IGTF

Agriculture & Biodiversity

- **Climate resilience investments in agriculture** (e.g., new or drought-tolerant crops, crop storage, digital applications for weather and hydrological monitoring and forecasting)
- **Sustainable and/or organic primary crop / animal and aquaculture production**
- **Climate resilience investments for water resources** (e.g., storage, harvesting, water saving technologies)
- **Climate resilience investment of coastal infrastructure** (e.g., early warning systems to reduce flood risks)
- **Agriculture improvements** (e.g., changes in cropping patterns)
- **Livestock** (e.g., manure treatment, application and storage systems resulting in substantial GHG emission reductions)
- **Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism**
- **Manufacturing of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation related technologies**

Pollution Prevention

- **Pollution prevention and control-related investments in economic activities**
- **Manufacturing of pollution prevention technologies**

Water & Wastewater Treatment

- **Upgrade & rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure**
- **Construction, extension, upgrade and rehabilitation of urban wastewater infrastructure and treatment activities**
- **Water efficiency and water saving improvements**

Guarantees: increasing banks' risk appetite and lending capacity

EIF portfolio guarantees

- Guarantee for SMEs (GF4SME) Resilience Programme: Non-thematic portfolio guarantee scheme funded by EU and managed by EIF.
- Guarantee agreements with 18 financial institutions, unlocking a total of EUR 885 million, in loans with favourable lending conditions, which are expected to support 15 000 companies and secure 140 000 jobs in the Western Balkans.

- ✓ Increased risk taking
- ✓ Lower collateral requirements
- ✓ More favourable terms

EFSD+ Risk sharing for Renewable Energy

- With resources from the European Commission under EFSD+, EIB is offering a non-granular linked risk sharing with financial institutions in the Western Balkans covering up to 50% of individual new risk exposures to projects in the Target Sectors.
- Target sectors: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Digital infrastructure

- ✓ Increased lending capacity
- ✓ More favourable terms
- ✓ Technical assistance
- ✓ Extra quality stamp on large RE projects



Advisory programmes and partnerships



Greening Financial Systems TA Programme (1/2)



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action



Objectives, scope &
expected results

The GFS Programme is BMWK's and EIB's joint contribution to the work of the NDC Partnership ("Readiness support for greening central banks" initiative). It seeks to provide **tailor-made technical assistance to central banks & supervisors (component I) and financial intermediaries (component II) in an 8 – 10 different developing countries and emerging economies**, as well as through a series of transversal activities.

GFS Programme Objectives

Support central banks, supervisors and financial institutions in **assessing climate risks, addressing and mainstreaming climate risk management**

1

Build capacity in central banks/supervisors to take action to support a transition to a **net zero and climate resilient economy**

2

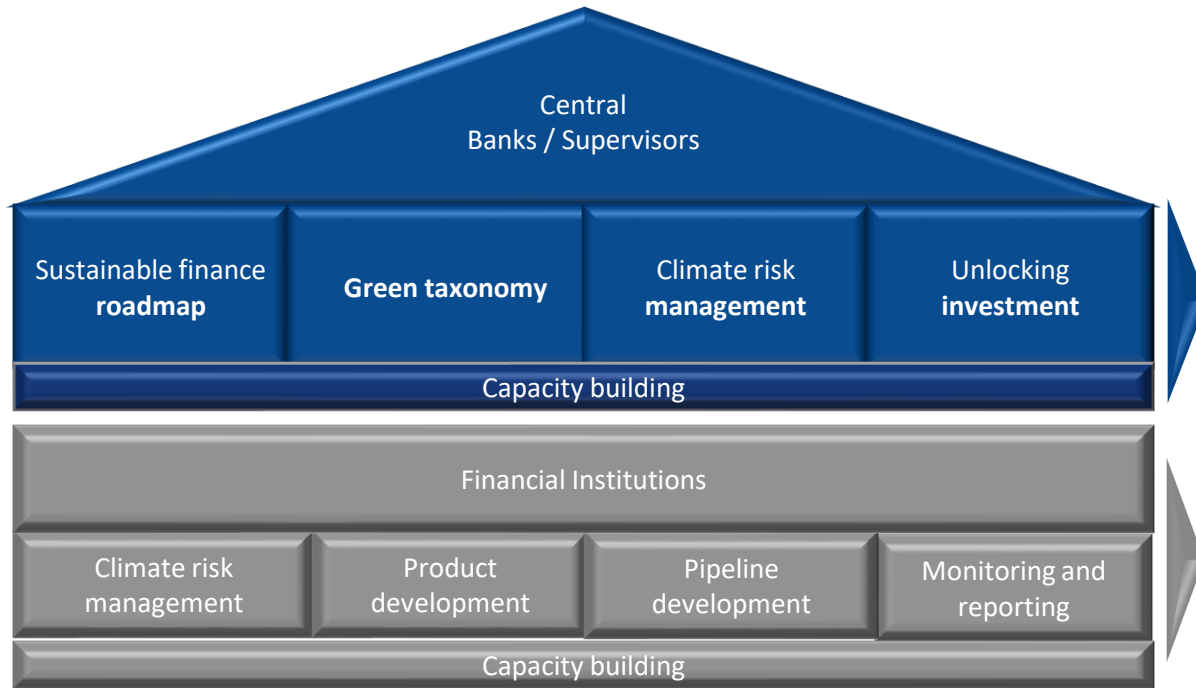
Support **financial institutions** to increase the share of **green investments** in their portfolio as well as to **assess climate risks and improve climate risk management**

3

Promote an **enabling financial sector environment** conducive to **unlocking climate action and green investments** in the targeted countries

4

Greening Financial Systems TA Programme (2/2)



Customized support to **central banks and regulators** to develop tools, policy instruments and supervisory capacity necessary to **manage climate risks** in the financial system as well as **create conducive environment for green investments**.

Customized support to **financial institutions** to build necessary capacities to **integrate climate risk management practices** into the business strategy and **scale up green investments**.

Goal: **development of enabling environment** that promotes **transition to net zero** and **climate-resilient financial systems**



EU Green Agenda for Serbia

EU for Green Agenda in Serbia



- The initiative aims to contribute to the efficient, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the Green Agenda in Serbia by **improving the strategic and legislative framework, co-financing implementation of innovative pilot projects and mobilizing additional financing for scale-up green innovations.**
- Since 2022, this initiative has provided mentoring support and **€4 million in co-financing** for the implementation of innovative green projects across Serbia. As a result, over **€29 million has been invested** so far, which accounts for some 15% of all estimated green investments in Serbia.



Decarbonization guide for North Macedonia

- A joint initiative of the EIB, EU and Economic Chamber of North Macedonia
- Primarily designed for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and focuses on improving their knowledge about the necessary capital for investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- A comprehensive digital resource that offers **clear steps and concrete solutions for companies of all sizes across various sectors to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.**

[About the guide](#)

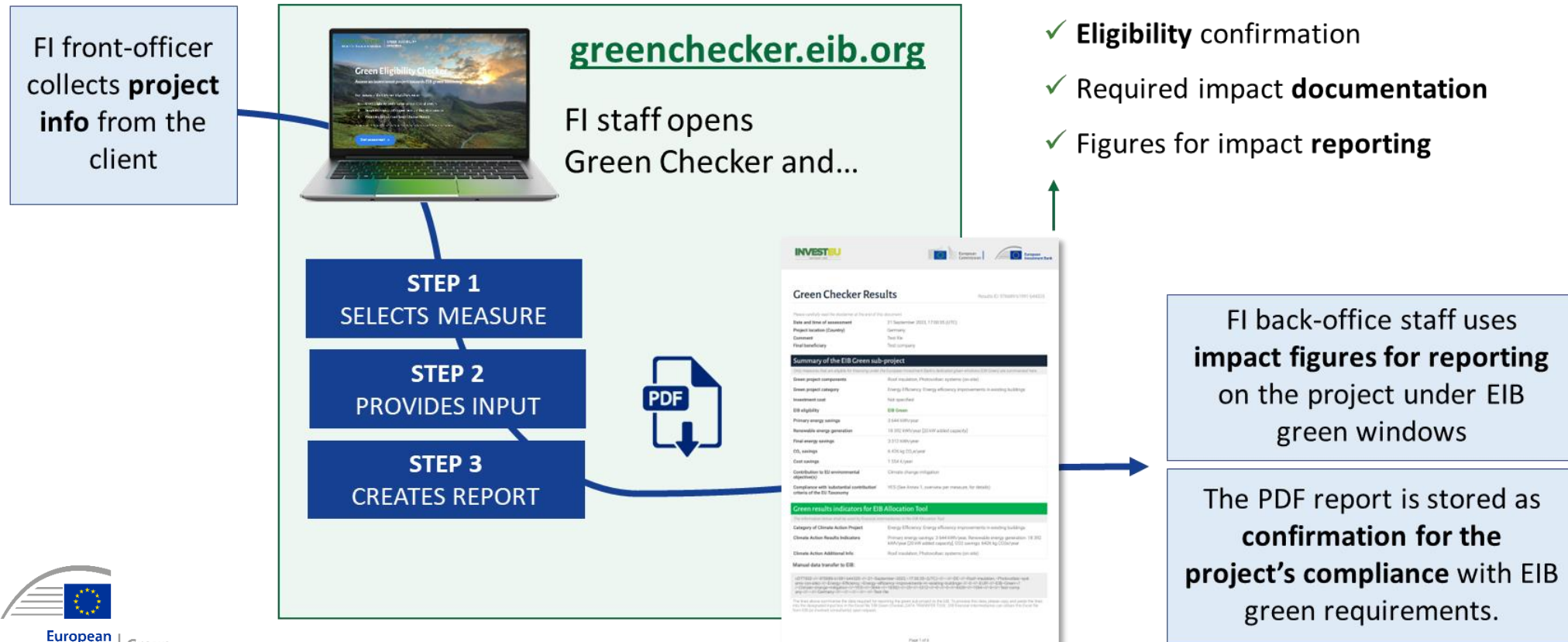


**GUIDE FOR THE
DECARBONISATION**



EIB Green Checker

- The Green Checker helps financial institutions and project promoters quickly assess if a project qualifies as green according to EIB criteria, making it easier to align investments with sustainable finance goals.
- User-friendly, freely accessible guided online tool that produces a report, including climate impact estimates like CO₂ reductions, energy savings, or other environmental benefits, which can be used for internal planning or reporting.





GREEN GATEWAY
Advice for financial institutions

**GREEN ELIGIBILITY
CHECKER**

EN



Green Eligibility Checker

for **Smartbank**

Assess an investment project for EIB green financing

Key features of the EIB Green Eligibility Checker:

- Green eligibility confirmation across several sectors
- Simplified climate impact estimation for numerous measures
- Download the Green Checker Results

It takes only 2-5 minutes per measure to assess climate impacts and EIB green eligibility.

[Start assessment →](#)

Alternatively you can also:

[Prepare reporting to EIB](#)

LIVE DEMO

EIB Group Green Checker





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Q&A

Interactive Q&A

You have questions? Please pose them in the chat!

Closing remarks

Sabine Fritz

Environment Agency Austria

EU Funding for the Western Balkans Webinar Summary

- EU, as the key donor in the region, provides an **extensive support** for SMEs and private sector in the Western Balkans
- **EU funding** programmes support environmental measures and projects
- The support is provided both in terms of **financing** and as **technical assistance** – to teach how to approach EU funding
- **WBIF** has developed more than 20 financing programmes for private sector in the Western Balkans
- The programmes can be accessed through **WBIF partner IFIs** – international financial institutions (like **EIB**), which can also provide advisory locally (check for contacts of IFIs and their partner banks in your economy)



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Sources on EU Funding for the Western Balkans:

- WBIF website: [Homepage - European Union and the Western Balkans](#)
- WBIF Environment & Climate: [Environment & Climate Initiatives | Combat Climate Change](#)
- WBIF for private sector: [Private Sector 2024 | WBIF EU Support for MSMEs & Innovation](#)
- WBIF Private Sector Factsheet: [WBIF Private Sector Factsheet October 2025.pdf](#)
- WBIF Private Sector Booklet: [Private sector booklet October 2025.pdf](#)
- LIFE Programme: [LIFE - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)
- LIFE CE calls for proposals: [Circular economy and quality of life - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)
- LIFE database with funded projects and results: [Programme for the Environment and Climate Action \(LIFE\) - European Commission](#)
- LIFE National contact points: [European National Contact Points - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)
- LIFE support for applicants: [LIFE - Support for applicants - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency](#)
- HORIZON Europe: [Horizon Europe - Research and innovation - European Commission](#)
- HORIZON Europe National Contact Points: [Home | Horizon Europe NCP Portal](#)
- EC Funding, Tenders webpage: [Funding, Tenders - European Commission](#)
- EU funding for environment: [Funding - Environment - European Commission](#)
- EU Programmes Performance Statements: [Programme Performance Statements - European Commission](#)
- Results and information on EU funded projects: [Results by project - European Commission](#)

Links for further education on financing environmental projects:

WATER:

- [Finance and investment for water | OECD](#)
- [Watered down? Investigating the financial materiality of water-related risks in the financial system | OECD](#)
- [Assessing the enabling conditions for investment in water security | OECD](#)
- [Financing a Water Secure Future | OECD](#)
- [Water investment planning and financing | OECD](#)
- [Cost recovery for water services under the Water Framework Directive | OECD](#)
- [The implementation of the Polluter Pays principle in the context of the Water Framework Directive | OECD](#)
- [National Public Development Banks \(PDBs\): Key Actors Financing Water and Sanitation | AFD - Agence Française de Développement](#)
- USAID Water and Development Technical Series, Technical Brief 9. (2021). "Financing Water and Sanitation Services". [USAID FINANCING WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES Technical Brief 9 \(globalwaters.org\)](#)
- The World Bank Group. (2023). *Scaling Up Finance for Water: a World Bank Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action*. [Scaling Up Finance for Water: A World Bank Strategic Framework and Roadmap for Action](#)
- OECD. (2022). *The challenge of Financing Water-Related Investments*. [2. The Challenge of Financing Water-related Investments | Financing a Water Secure Future | OECD iLibrary \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#)
- Alearts (2019). "Financing for Water—Water for Financing: A Global Review of Policy and Practice"
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330907078_Financing_for_Water-Water_for_Financing_A_Global_Review_of_Policy_and_Practice
- IAWD and World Bank Capacity Development Programme: [VoD - Access to Financing \(iawd.at\)](#)

Links for further education on financing environmental projects (cntd):

BIODIVERSITY:

- [Finance and investment for biodiversity | OECD](#)
- [Assessing biodiversity-related financial risks | OECD](#)
- [A supervisory framework for assessing nature-related financial risks : Identifying and navigating biodiversity risks | OECD Business and Finance Policy Papers | OECD iLibrary \(oecd-ilibrary.org\)](#)
- Biodiversity and the core business of financial companies (Green Finance Alliance Austria): [Publications](#)

CIRCULAR ECONOMY:

- EIB Circular Economy Guide: [The EIB circular economy guide](#)
- IFC Harmonized Circular Economy Guidelines: [Harmonized Circular Economy Finance Guidelines](#)
- ABN Amro, ING, Rabobank, EBRD: [Circular Economy Finance Guidelines](#)
- Circular STEP. Accelerating the Transition Towards a Circular Economy in the UNECE Region: Mobilizing Financing. [CIRCULAR-STEP Mobilizing Financing-4.28.2023 0.pdf](#)

AIR QUALITY:

- The European Investment Bank Advisory Hub & AMAT. (2018). *Financing Air Quality Plans*. https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/system/files/ged/190325_financing_air_quality_plans.pdf

DEPOLLUTION SOIL:

- [Green Finance Approaches to Soil Remediation: International examples | International Institute for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Financing remediation of contaminated sites](#)

General information on EU Funding for environmental projects:

- A guide to the 2021-2027 EU budget (with good visuals and explanations): Matching money with green ideas [Matching money with green ideas](#)
- Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 [EU budget 2028-2034](#)
- Find your EU funding programme for the environment [Find your EU funding programme for the environment - Publications Office of the EU](#)
- Streamlining sustainable finance for SMEs: report by the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance, suggesting voluntary standards and approaches: [Platform on Sustainable Finance report: Streamlining sustainable finance for SMEs - Finance](#)
- This report provide information/mapping on EU funding programmes explicitly identified by EGD strategies/ action plans to support the achievement of the related goals [ETC CE Report 2024/8 Investment needs and gaps for the sustainability transition in Europe: Rethinking the European Green Deal as an EU industrial strategy — Eionet Portal](#)

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S WEBINAR!

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Quelle: Umweltbundesamt, M. Deweis

EU funding programmes – steps and practical recommendations



EU direct management programme's implementation steps:

1. **Launching** the call for proposals
2. **Evaluating** submitted proposals
3. **Signing** grant agreements
4. **Monitoring** project implementation
5. **Assessing** the results
6. Making **payments**



Applicant's project life cycle:

1. **Programming** based on policy's priorities
2. **Identification** of relevant problems, issues, options, needs, possible solutions
3. **Formulation** of solutions: realistic, feasible, leading to financing decision
4. **Implementation** linked to the outcome
5. **Closure** and follow-up

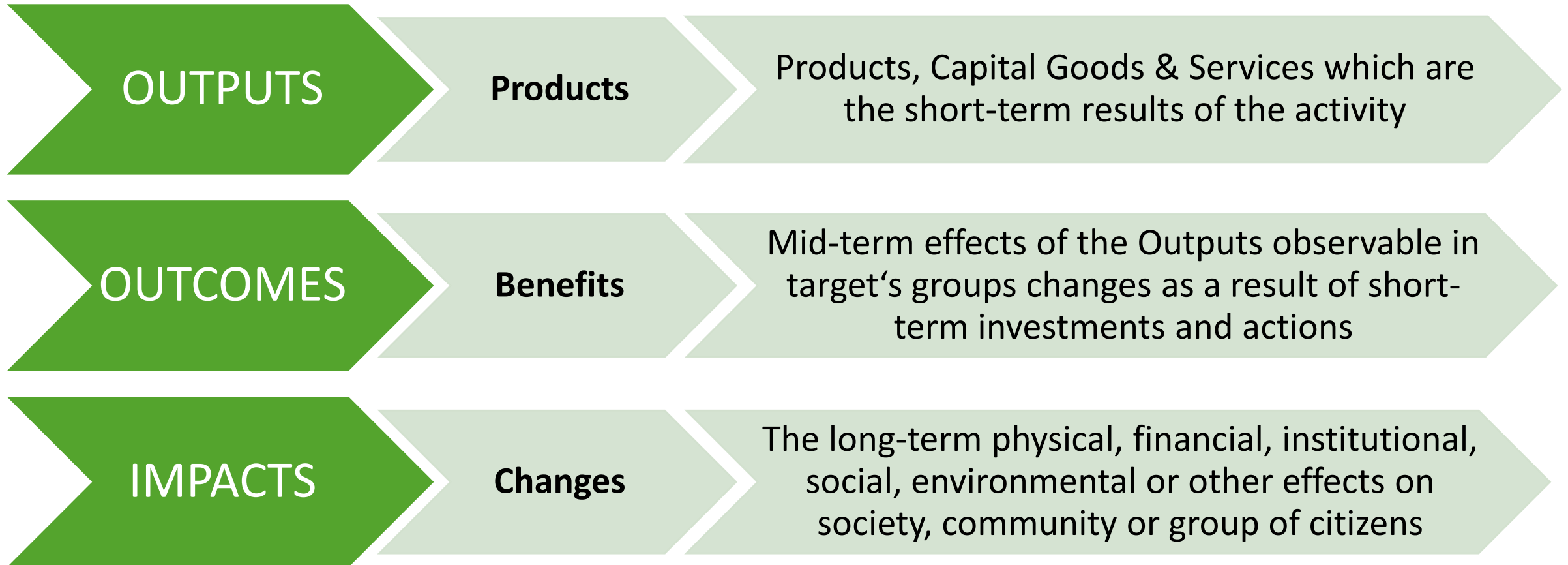


Important aspects for applications:

- First, identify a **relevant call for proposals/project**
- Follow carefully the **specific guidelines** on how to apply – each call is unique
- **Policy** comes first
- Clear **impact indicators** (how project success is measured)
- Learn from **similar implemented projects**
- Credible **supportive documents**
- External **evaluator**

Source: [EU funding by management mode](#); EU Project Management training by the College of Europe

Project's results: common language for EU funded projects



Source: EU Project Management training by the College of Europe

EU funding programmes – quality attributes of projects



Source: EU Project Management training by the College of Europe